

United States Patent and Trademark Office



APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,808	02/06/2004	Richard Apodaca	ORT1492	8466
27777	7590 09/20/2004		EXAMINER	
PHILIP S. JOHNSON			HUANG, EVELYN MEI	
JOHNSON & JOHNSON ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1625	
			DATE MAILED: 09/20/2004	DATE MAILED: 09/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
	10/773,808	APODACA ET AL.				
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
	Evelyn Huang	1625				
The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply						
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).						
Status						
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on						
	_ _					
	Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.					
Disposition of Claims						
4) Claim(s) 1-34 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) 1-34 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.						
Application Papers						
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.						
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some * c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. 						
Attachment(s)						
 Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 	4) Interview Summary Paper No(s)/Mail Da 5) Notice of Informal P 6) Other:					

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Election/Restrictions

- 1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 3, 13-15, 20-22, and claims 1, 2, 6-12, 16-19, 23 in part, drawn to a compound wherein a=1, b=0, classified in class 546, subclass 112 and the composition thereof.
 - II. Claim 4, and claims 1, 2, 6-12, 16-18, 23 in part, drawn to a compound wherein a=b=0, classified in class 548, subclass 452, and the composition thereof.
 - III. Claim 5, and claims 1, 2, 6-12, 16-17, 19, 23 in part, drawn to a compound wherein a=b=1, classified in class 546, subclass 138, and the composition thereof.
 - IV. Claims 24, 25, drawn to a method for treating a disorder or condition mediated by the histamine H3 receptor.
 - V. Claims 26, 27, drawn to a method of treating a disease or condition modulated by a least one receptor selected from histamine H1 receptor and histamine H3 receptor.
 - VI. Claims 28, 29, drawn to a method of treating a disease or condition modulated by a least one receptor selected from histamine H2 receptor and histamine H3 receptor.
 - VII. Claim 30, drawn to a method for treating sleep/wake disorder, narcolepsy or arousal/vigilance disorder.
 - VIII. Claim 31, drawn to a method for treating ADHD.
 - IX. Claim 32, drawn to a method of treating dementia, mild cognitive impairment, schizophrenia, depression etc.
 - Claim 33, drawn to a method for treating or preventing upper airway allergic response.
 - XI. Claim 34, drawn to a method for studying disorders mediated by the histamine H3 receptor using radiolabeled compound as PET probe.

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The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The compounds of Group I-III are structurally, chemically and patentably distinct. They are classified in different classifications and they are expected to have different chemical and physical properties. The compound of Group I is an octahydro-indolizine, the compound of Group II is a hexahydro-pyrrolizine whereas the compound of Group III is an octahydroquinolizine. A reference anticipating Group I invention would not render obvious the Group II or III inventions.

Inventions I-III and inventions IV to XI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case, the product as claimed can be used in the various materially different processes as evidenced in the 8 independent method claims wherein the subjects are different. Furthermore, each of the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product, for example, the histamine H3 receptor mediated diseases can be treated with compounds described in Tozer (PTO-1449), which are different from the instant compounds. ADHD can be treated with Ratilin.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, the search is not coextensive and is therefore burdensome. Since the search required for one group is not required for the other groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

- 2. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).
- 3. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

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application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

4. The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See "Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai, In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b)," 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Evelyn Huang whose telephone number is 571-272-0686. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang can be reached on 571-272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Evelyn Huang

Primary Examiner

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